

Appln No. 10/622,221
Amdt date June 19, 2006
Reply to Office action of March 17, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-19 and 22-32 remain pending in this application, with claims 33 and 34 being withdrawn from consideration. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 17. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings. No new matter is presented. Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-4, 6, 9-19 and 22-32 are in condition for allowance, and therefore respectfully requests a timely indication of allowance.

In the Final Rejection dated March 17, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Whayne, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,203,525). However, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite, "the non-conductive tubing forming a generally heel-shaped curve comprising a first bend away from the axis of the catheter body and a second bend back toward and past the axis of the catheter body, wherein non-conductive tubing terminates in a generally straight distal end that is generally transverse to the axis of the catheter body." Similarly, Applicant has amended independent claim 17 to recite, "the non-conductive tubing forming a generally heel-shaped curve comprising a first bend away from the axis of the catheter body and a second bend back toward and past the axis of the catheter body, wherein the non-conductive tubing terminates in a generally straight distal end that is generally transverse to the axis of the catheter body, the generally straight distal end of the non-conductive tubing forming an angle with the axis of the catheter body ranging from about 75° to about 110°." Whayne neither teaches nor suggests such a configuration. Rather, Whayne discloses a loop structure, as depicted in Figures 3A, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 and 7 and discussed at Column 7, lines 60-63. As such, Whayne fails to teach or suggest "a generally heel-shaped curve...terminat[ing] in a generally straight distal end that is generally transverse to the axis of the catheter body," as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 17. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 17, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-4, 6, 9-16, 18, 19 and 22-32, are allowable over Whayne.

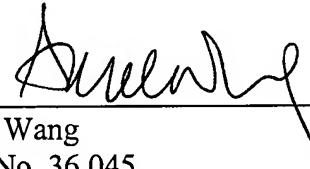
The Examiner also rejected claims 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Whayne in view of Fung, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,120,476), and rejected claim 32

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under 35§ 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Whayne in view of Swanson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,961,513). However, neither Fung nor Swanson remedy the deficiencies of Whayne. Specifically, neither Fung nor Swanson disclose "a generally heel-shaped curve...terminat[ing] in a generally straight distal end that is generally transverse to the axis of the catheter body," as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 17. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 17 , and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-4, 6, 9-16, 18, 19 and 22-32, are allowable over Whayne, Fung and Swanson.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-4, 6, 9-19 and 22-32, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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